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BRIEF

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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BRIEF

TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

WNINTEL

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA BRIEF
FOR MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1990.

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DESPITE A PROMISING START AND NEW FOREIGN SUPPORT, HAITI'S ELECTION REMAINS HOSTAGE TO THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE FROM EXTREMIST FORMER DUVALIERISTS.

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WEDNESDAY AUTHORIZED SENDING AS MANY AS 420 OBSERVERS AND SECURITY ADVISERS TO MONITOR THE ELECTION, SET FOR 16 DECEMBER, AND FRANCE APPROVED A \$2 MILLION PACKAGE OF ELECTION-RELATED AID. VOTER REGISTRATION, WHICH ENDS ON 26 OCTOBER, IS OFF TO A GOOD START.

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TOT: [REDACTED]

PARTICULARLY IN THE CITIES. ALMOST 10 PERCENT OF HAITI'S 3 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS REGISTERED LAST WEEKEND. [REDACTED]

FORMER DUVALIERIST MINISTER LAFONTANT, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED HIS QUEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY, DESPITE GOVERNMENT THREATS TO ARREST HIM ON AN IMMIGRATION TECHNICALITY. [REDACTED]

ELECTION SECURITY WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE HAITIAN ARMY, WHICH IS BADLY EQUIPPED, UNDISCIPLINED, ILL HOUSED, AND POORLY FED. [REDACTED] LAFONTANT HAS MANY FOLLOWERS IN THE ARMY. [REDACTED]

THE PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WILL HELP BUILD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTION, BUT THOSE UNARMED TEAMS ARE UNLIKELY TO GREATLY DETER THE EXTREMISTS. THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY STILL NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL \$3-4 MILLION TO FINANCE THE ELECTION, BUT FOREIGN DONORS WILL BE RELUCTANT UNTIL THEY GAUGE THE SUCCESS OF THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND THE THREAT POSED BY EXTREMISTS. [REDACTED]

SUCCESSFUL ELECTION [REDACTED] REST ON WHETHER THE ARMY HOPES FOR A VIOLENCE; FAILURE BY THE ARMY WOULD QUICKLY DAMPEN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMITMENT TO THE ELECTION. [REDACTED]

FOREIGN AID FOR THE HAITIAN ELECTION SLOW TO DEVELOP

MOST DONORS ARE OPTING TO PROVIDE "IN KIND" ASSISTANCE. THE US HAS BEEN THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR, PROMISING A TOTAL OF \$6.5 MILLION AND IS THE ONLY DONOR TO EARMARK ANY PORTION OF ITS ASSISTANCE--THROUGH THE OAS--FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY-RELATED EQUIPMENT. THE RECENT FRENCH COMMITMENT OF \$2 MILLION INCLUDES FUNDS FOR PRINTING AND FOR VOTER EDUCATION. VENEZUELA IS WILLING TO SELL HAITI OIL ON CONCESSIONARY TERMS AND MAY PROVIDE MOTOR SCOOTERS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT. CANADA HAS PROMISED \$800,000 WORTH OF PAPER, BALLOT BOXES, AND PRIVACY SCREENS. GERMANY HAS TO DECIDE WHAT MATERIALS TO OFFER, BUT OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEIR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE WORTH SOME \$660,000. A FEW CARIBBEAN AND LATIN COUNTRIES HAVE ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO SEND OBSERVERS. [REDACTED] ENOUGH AID HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY FOREIGN DONORS SO FAR TO FINANCE THE PROCESS ONLY AS FAR AS THE END OF VOTER REGISTRATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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